

REMARKS

Claims 87-98 are presented for consideration, with Claims 87, 92, 93 and 98 being independent.

The independent claims have been amended to more clearly recited Applicants' invention and further distinguish it from the cited art.

The following remarks address the outstanding rejections in the Office Action mailed March 11, 2003.

In that regard, Claims 87-98 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for allegedly containing subject matter not adequately described in the specification. In addition, Claims 87-98 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for not particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter of Applicants' invention.

In response to both rejections, Claims 87, 92, 93 and 98 have been amended taking into consideration the remarks set forth in paragraph 8 of the Office Action. In particular, the claims have been amended to set forth that the first encoding step performs "intra-picture" coding, an editing step performs an editing process to "at least one picture" of the moving image data, and a second encoding step performs "intra-picture" coding to the moving image data. It is respectfully submitted that these changes overcome the grounds for the rejections, and thus reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, are respectfully requested.

Claims 87-89, 92-95 and 98 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Bonomi '191. In addition, Claims 90, 91, 96 and 97 stand rejected

under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Bonomi in view of Nguyen '437. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention as set forth in Claim 87 relates to an image processing method comprising the steps of inputting moving image data encoded in a first encoding method using intra-picture coding and inter-picture coding, decoding the input moving image data, and performing the intra-picture coding to the decoded moving image data and storing the encoded data in a recording medium. A second decoding step reads the moving image data encoded in the first encoding step from the recording medium and decodes the read data, an editing step performs an editing process to at least one picture of the moving image data decoded in the second decoding step, and a second encoding step performs intra-picture coding to the moving image data subjected to the editing process and stores the encoded data in the recording medium. In addition, a third encoding step reads the moving image data encoded in the second encoding step from the recording medium, converts the read data in the first encoding method, and outputs the converted data.

Claim 92 relates to an image processing apparatus which executes an image processing method comprised of the steps set forth in Claim 87.

Claim 93 relates to an image processing method that includes an input step, a first decoding step, a first encoding step, a second decoding step, an editing step, and a second encoding step as set forth in Claim 87. In addition, a third decoding step reads the moving image data encoded in the second encoding step and decodes the read data, and a third encoding step encodes the moving image data decoded in the third decoding step in the first encoding method and outputs the encoded data.

Lastly, Claim 98 relates to an image processing apparatus which executes an image processing method using the steps of Claim 93.

In accordance with Applicants' claimed invention, an efficient and high performance image processing method and apparatus can be provided.

As discussed in the previous Amendment of December 22, 2002, Bonomi relates to a video editing and publishing system that includes a video capture unit, a video compression unit, and video decompression unit coupled to a host computer having video editing capabilities. As understood, the system allows video editing to occur using intra-frame only compressed video data. The edited video data is then decompressed and recompressed to provide compressed data, compressed using both inter-frame and intra-frame operations and usable for publication in a removable storage medium, such as a compact disk or a data network.

The Office Action asserts that Bonomi includes teaching of second encoding means for encoding edited image data. In contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, however, Bonomi is not understood to teach or suggest, among other features, performing, in a second encoding step, intra-picture coding to the moving image data subjected to the editing process and storing the encoded data in the recording medium, and in a third encoding step reading the moving image data encoded in the second encoding step from the recording medium, converting the read data in the first encoding method, and outputting the converted data as set forth in Claims 87 and 92.

Claims 93 and 98 also include the second encoding step of performing the intra-picture coding to the moving image data subjected to the editing process and storing the encoded data, and further feature a third decoding step of reading the moving image data encoded in the second encoding step and decoding the read data, and a third encoding step of encoding the moving image data decoded in the third decoding step in the first encoding method and outputting the encoded data. These features, among others, are not taught or suggested in Bonomi.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 is respectfully requested.

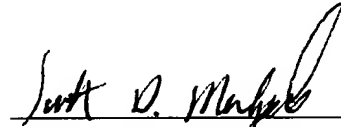
The secondary citation to Nguyen relates to computer graphics that includes specific features of editing animation frames. Nguyen fails, however, to compensate for the deficiencies in Bonomi as discussed above with respect to Applicants' independent Claims 87, 92, 93 and 98. Accordingly, without conceding the propriety of combining Bonomi and Nguyen in the manner proposed in the Office Action, such a combination still fails to teach or suggest Applicants' invention. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in independent Claims 87, 92, 93 and 98 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 88-91 and 94-97 set forth additional features of Applicants' invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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